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Declass Review by NIMA / DoD

NPIC/R-97/62

ACTIVITY ON MANGYSHLAK PENINSULA, USSR

INTRODUCTION

Mys Melovoy	

25X1B:

ered by [REDACTED]

There is extensive expansion and development of oil resources throughout the Mangyshlak Peninsula.

There is extensive expansion and development of oil resources throughout the Mangyshlak Peninsula. Ground scars forming geometric grid patterns extend 50 nm east and 80 nm south-southeast of Mys Melovoy. The possibility exists that these scars could be the result of geophysical prospecting.

25X9



FIGURE 1. CASPIAN SEA AREA SHOWING MANGYSHLAK PENINSULA.

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25X1

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TOWNS ON MANGYSHLAK PENINSULA

The settlement and port at Mys Melovoy (43-37N 51-10E) was first
 25X1D noted on photography of [REDACTED] although it was also covered in
 25X1D [REDACTED] The settlement is spread over an area roughly 2 square nm,
 although only a small portion of this area is built up (Figure 2). Features

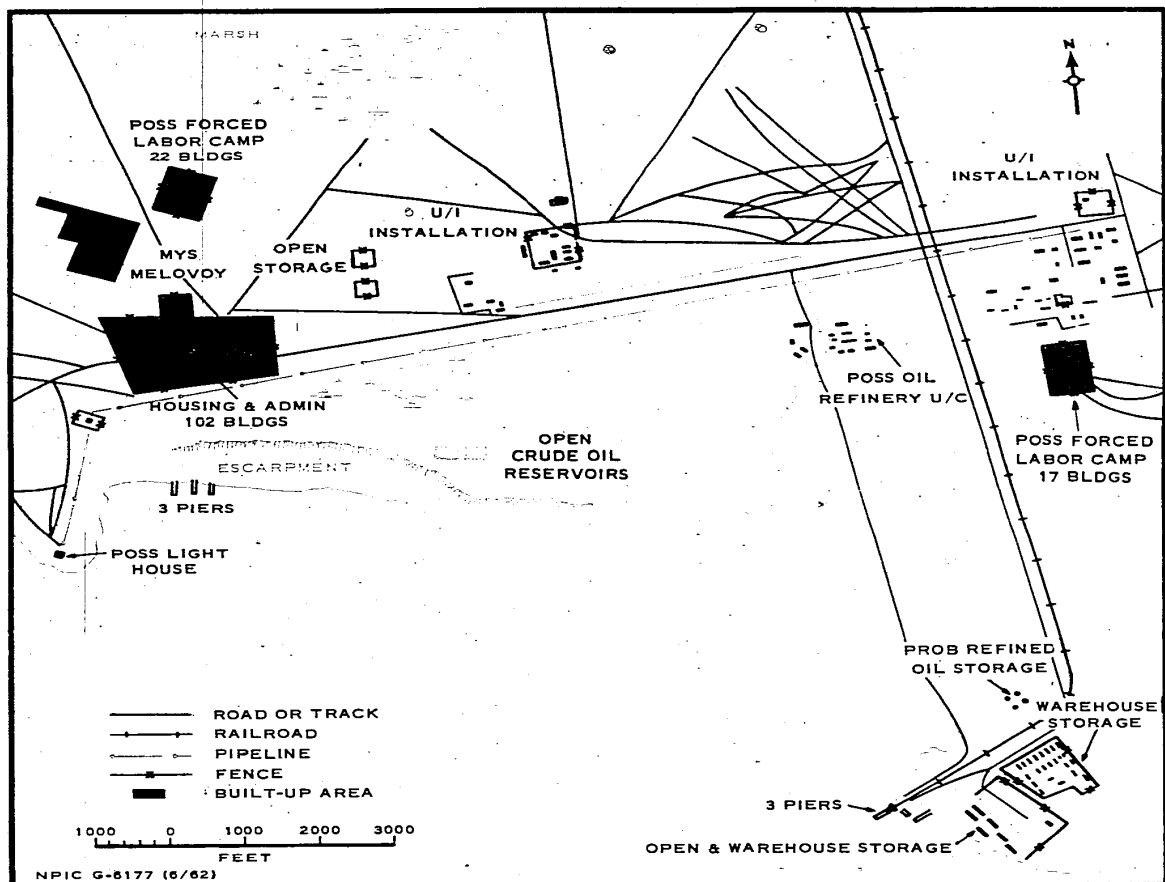


FIGURE 2. MYS MELOVOY AREA.

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present in the settlement are a partly fenced housing and administration area, two separate port facilities, one of which is rail served and contains a large warehouse and an open storage area, a possible oil refinery, and 2 possible forced labor camps. The existence of the forced labor camps could explain the fencing at the housing and administration area.

The rail-served port facility located 2 nautical miles (nm) southeast of the housing and administration area, has three distinct types of support buildings in the storage areas, three piers, and a secured open storage area for construction materials. A comparison of the photographic coverages shows that several of the support buildings and one pier were built between [REDACTED] Three unidentified ships were located at this port in [REDACTED]

25X1D
25X1D

Two possible forced labor camps are located near Mys Melovoy. One camp, on the northern edge of the area, contains 22 buildings of various kinds, the second camp, on the eastern edge of the area, contains 17 buildings of various types.

The secured, built-up area of Mys Melovoy itself contains about 50 multistoried buildings, 12 of which are administrative-type buildings; 52 barracks, a possible power plant and two open oil storage reservoirs, one of which was built between [REDACTED] The railroad under construction extends northeast for approximately 30 nm from the piers at Mys Melovoy. The possible oil refinery is under construction north of the pier; a network of pipelines and tall objects, which may be cracking units, can be seen. No definite road patterns are discernible in the area, probably because the relatively flat terrain can be traveled easily in any direction.

25X1D

Fort Shevchenko (44-31N 50-15E), located approximately 50 nm northwest of Mys Melovoy, is reported to have a population of 10,000 persons. Fort Shevchenko is reported to contain a meteorological station, an electric power station, a tracking station, and hunting and fishing facilities. The town is served by an airfield with a 10,220 - by 325-foot, graded-earth runway oriented northwest/southeast. No aircraft were observed at this field

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on any of the missions. The airfield contains three hangars, one administrative building, and eight support buildings.

A small, built-up area, 3 nm north of the airfield, contains 12 barracks-type buildings and 9 smaller buildings. Another area, located one nm west of the airfield, contains 16 unidentified structures.

The port of Bautino (44-35N 50-14E), 3 nm north of Fort Shevchenko, contains at least nine piers, two possible drydocks, and a repair yard. Four unidentified ships and a number of smaller vessels were visible in

25X1D [] Smaller unidentified industries and residential housing can be seen. There is extensive track activity east of Bautino.

GRID AREAS ON PENINSULA

25X1D Ground scars, centered at 43-30N 52-05E (Figure 3), form geometric roadlike grid patterns which can be seen extending 50 nm east and 80 nm south southeast of Mys Melovoy. The ground scars are approximately [] 25X1D [] wide. The grid pattern is broken and scattered throughout this large area. The lines extend in both north/south and east/west directions, with some criss-crossing to form rectangles and triangles. The rectangles vary in size from approximately 8,000 to 16,800 feet in an east/west direction and from approximately 16,220 to 36,000 feet in a north/south tangent. Small camps or villages and two oilfields are located within this grid pattern area.

In one location (43-15N 52-05E), near the center of the grid pattern, the rectangles are much smaller and more uniform, measuring approximately 1,200 to 4,500 feet long. Several possible camps or villages are present in this area. Open sources state that in 1959 leading Soviet geologists suggested that seismic and gravimeter prospecting campaigns be carried out on the peninsula and in surrounding areas. 2/ These ground scars could be the results of this geophysical prospecting.

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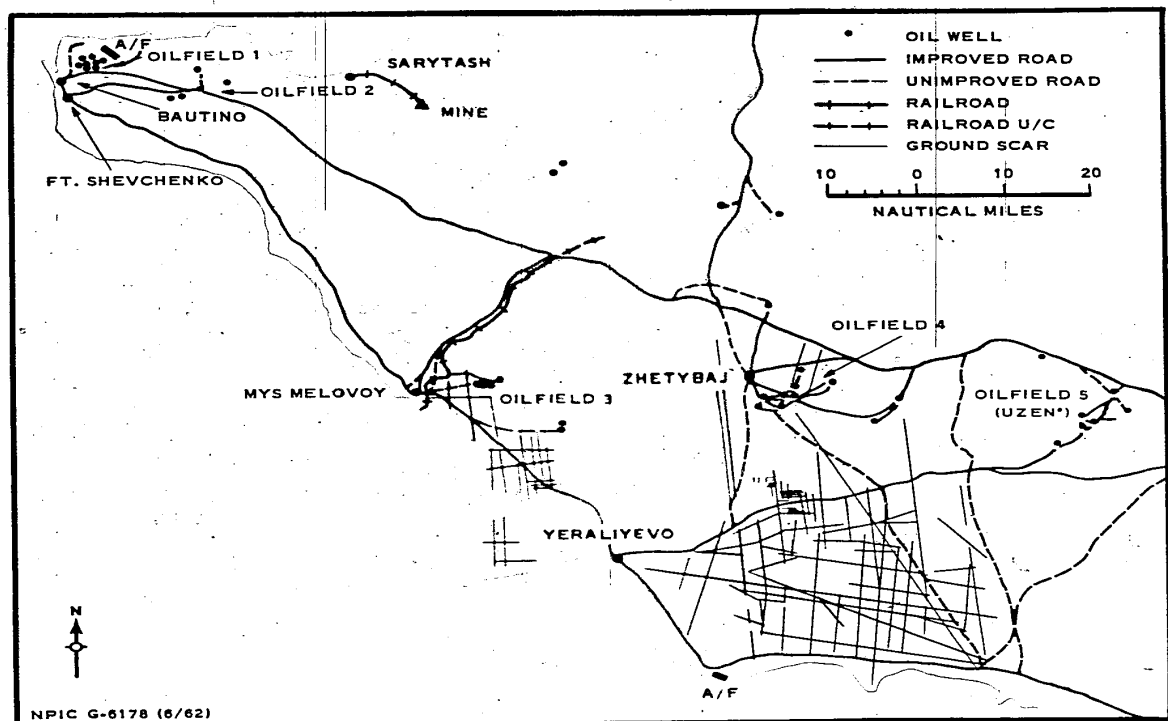


FIGURE 3. MANGYSHLAK PENINSULA SHOWING GRID PATTERNS AND PETROLEUM PRODUCING AREAS.

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

Recent collateral reports state that the USSR is energetically exploring a vast region east of the Caspian Sea. Some Soviet geologists believe that the region may have oil reserves comparable to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Mys Melovoy area of the Mangyshlak peninsula can be considered within this potential oil-producing region. 3/

The geologic structure and nature of the rocks of the Mangyshlak peninsula and surrounding area make it favorable for petroleum and mineral exploration. Expansion and development of the oil resources

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seem to be evident throughout the peninsula. Some possible mining activity is visible in the area (at 44-21N 51-23E) but evidence of petroleum exploration and production are much more apparent.

There are five general areas of actual drilling activity on the peninsula. The first is located 6 nm north-northeast of Fort Shevchenko, near the airfield at 44-37N 50-28E. Eight wells are located in this area. Five of these wells are connected by heavily traveled service roads, which form a trapezoidal pattern similar to that formed by roads linking oilfields at Baku. The second area, with another five wells, is located 12 nm east of the first area. A third site is located 10 nm east of Mys Melovoy. It contains four wells. This may be part of the Zhetybaj oilfields, which are reported to be at 42-33N 52-00E.

A fourth site of drilling activity is located 40 nm east of Mys Melovoy at 43-34N 52-00E in an area covering approximately 75 square miles. Ten wells can be seen and there is evidence of others. A housing camp is located in the immediate vicinity. Extensive track activity is noted. This is considered to be the Zhetybaj West oilfield.

A fifth site, probably the Uzen' oilfield, consisting of seven oil wells, is located approximately 33 nm east of the third field at 43-25N 52-50E.

The petroleum stored at Mys Melovoy is probably trucked from these five oilfields since no definite pipelines connecting the fields with the port can be identified. Open Russian sources state that rare gases are found in this area, which raises the possibility that helium may be present. A helium plant may be located at Mys Melovoy, although none can be identified. 3/

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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25X1D

MAPS AND CHARTS

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ACIC. WAC 326, 1st ed, scale

ACIC. ONC 248, 1st ed, scale

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DOCUMENTS

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1.

2. D'yakov, B. F. "Tectonic Structure of the Mangyshlak Peninsula," Geologiya Nefti i Gaza (Geology and Oil and Gas Possibilities of the Mangyshlak Peninsula), p 27-38, July 1957 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Nevolin, N. V. Structure of Western Caspian Sea, All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Geology and Mineralogy (UNCLASSIFIED)

Imashev, N. U., Kuprin, P. N. "Oil and Gas Possibilities of the Steppe," Geologiya Nefti i Gaza (Geology and Oil and Gas Possibilities of the Steppe), p 112 (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. "Caspian Sea Area," Oil and Gas

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REQUIREMENT

CIA. OSI/R-171/61

NPIC PROJECT

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